

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02
USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01
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R 181239Z FEB 77
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3077
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 3165
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD, EEC
SUBJECT: EC MEMBER STATES PREPARE FOR CIEC AND UNCTAD RAW MATERIALS
DISCUSSIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1378

1. THE COUNCIL RAW MATERIALS WORKING GROUP MET ON FEB. 14-15
TO DISCUSS UNCTAD AND CIEC RAW MATERIAL ISSUES. EC COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT AND COMMISSION OFFICIALS TELL US THAT NO PROGRESS
WAS MADE ON MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. THE GROUP AGREED TO
MAINTAIN THE SAME JOINT APPROACH FOR THE THIRD PREPCOM FOR
THE COMMON FUND WHICH IT MAINTAIN FOR THE SECOND ONE, I.E.,
EXAMINING ISSUES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMON FUND AND
DRAWING UP PROCEDURES FOR THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS.
MEMBER STATE EXPERTS AGREED TO AVOID TAKING INDIVIDUAL
POSITIONS THAT WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE EC TO REACH
A JOINT POSITION.

2. THE FRG STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT IT COULD NOT SUPPORT A
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FUND WITH "OTHER MEASURES". THE GROUP CONSEQUENTLY
INSTRUCTED THE EC SPOKESMAN TO EMPHASIZE AT THE
PREPCOM THAT EC HAD NOT YET TAKEN A POSITION ON THIS
ISSUE. THE SPOKESMAN WAS ALSO INSTRUCTED TO TAKE A
NEUTRAL POSITION REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY THAT GOVERN-
MENTS WOULD CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO THE FUND. THE
GROUP REACHED NO JOINT POSITION ON THE FIVE RECENT

UNCTAD DOCUMENTS ON THE FUND. THE EC WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THEM AT GENEVA.

3. THE COMMISSION HAS AGAIN ASKED THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO PROPOSE TO THE COUNCIL THAT THE COMMISSION BE AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE THE COMMON FUND FOR THE EC. COMMISSION OFFICIALS DO NOT EXPECT THE COUNCIL TO ACT ON THIS REQUEST BECAUSE MEMBER STATES ARE TOO DIVIDED TO AGREE ON A JOINT NEGOTIATING MANDATE. NEVERTHELESS, THEY WANT TO KEEP THIS ISSUE BEFORE THE COUNCIL. IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THE MARCH NEGOTIATING SESSION IS ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A COMMON FUND, THE COMMISSION WANTS TO BE ABLE TO SIGN IT ALONG WITH THE MEMBER STATES.

4. THE COMMISSION IS NOW PREPARING A POSITION ON THE COMMON FUND NEGOTIATIONS TO PROPOSE TO THE MARCH 8 FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL. THE COMMISSION STAFF IS ENCOURAGED BY THE INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. COMMISSION OFFICIALS DO NOT BELIEVE THERE ARE MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES ON HOW TO MANAGE THE NEGOTIATIONS AND ON A POSSIBLE FINAL G-B OFFER ON COMMODITIES.

5. THE WORKING GROUP ALSO REVIEWED POSITIONS FOR THE CIEC RAW MATERIALS COMMISSION. SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE ON MINOR POINTS, BUT THE MAJOR ISSUES WERE LEFT FOR EC HIGH LEVEL GROUP TO DISCUSS ON FEBRUARY 22. MORRIS

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Message Attributes

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